*171. SHRI MISA R. GENESAN:
SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian peronnel of our Embassy in Moscow have been leading a very difficult and unenviable life in Moscow, following recent developments there; and

(b) if so, what steps Government of India have taken to mitigate their hardship?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Some problems caused by shortages of essential goods in the local market do exist in Moscow.

(b) As many essential items have to be imported or bought in hard currency shops, a proposal to increase the quantum of payments in hard currency to our Embassy personnel is under process.

Setting up of a Delimitation Commission

*171. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY.
SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a proposal for setting up a fresh Delimitation Commission; and

(b) if so, what will be the composition of the Commission and the details of the terms of reference of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) Under the provisions of the Constitution, no delimitation can be undertaken until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2000 have been published. The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha to provide for fresh delimitation of constituencies on the basis of the 1981 census figures without affecting the total number of seats allocated to various States. Further action can be taken only after the Constitution (Amendment) Bill is passed by Parliament.

(b) The composition of the Commission and the manner of delimitation would be such as Parliament may by law determine.

Electoral Reforms

*172. SHRI JAGADISH JANI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFARS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any propoasl under consideration to make some reforms in the existing electoral process;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard, so far; and

(c) whether a Bill is proposed to be introduced to make the reforms effective?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Four bills on electoral reforms are already pending in the House. Further, in the light of the experience gained in the last general elections, a greater indepth study of the entire gamut of electoral reforms is being undertaken by the Government.